

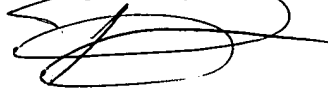
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Preliminary Amendment, the specification is amended, claims 12-23 are canceled, and claims 24-28 are added. Claims 1-11 and 24-28 are pending and are subject to examination. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A favorable Action on the merits is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick R. Jewik
Reg. No. 40,456

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300

PRJ:lyk
60172370 v1